

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for retrieving refuse, comprising:

providing a pair of articulating jaws at one end of a stalk, a hook along the length of the stalk, and a bag having a least one handle;

5 attaching the bag to the hook by the handle of the bag;

articulating the jaws to an open position;

picking up refuse by the jaws;

closing the jaws after said picking up;

moving the opening of the bag after said closing such that the distal portion of the jaws

10 are inside the bag; and

articulating the jaws to the open position after said moving so that the refuse is dropped into the bag.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said articulating the jaws to an open position is by

15 one hand of a person, and said moving is by the other hand of the person.

3. A method for retrieving refuse, comprising:

providing a pair of articulating jaws at one end of a stalk, a hook along the length of the stalk, and a flexible bag having a least one handle;

20 attaching the bag to the hook by the handle of the bag;

placing the bag such that the jaws are inside the bag;

articulating the jaws to an open position after said placing;

picking up refuse and a portion of the bag into the jaws;

closing the jaws after said picking up;
turning the bag inside out after said closing; and
articulating the jaws to the open position after said turning so that the refuse is dropped
into the bag.

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4. The method of claim 3 wherein said bag has a pair of handles and said attaching is
by both handles of the bag.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said attaching is before said placing.

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6. The method of claim 3 wherein said articulating the jaws to an open position is by
one hand of a person, and said turning is by the other hand of the person.

7. An apparatus for picking up refuse from the ground, comprising:

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a stalk having two ends;

a handle at one end of said stalk;

a pair of articulating jaws at the other end of said stalk; and

a hook mounted to said stalk at a location between said handle and said jaws.

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8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening of said hook is oriented toward said
handle.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said the opening of said hook is more than about nine inches from the distal portion of said jaws and less than about thirteen inches from the distal portion of said jaws.

5 10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said the opening of said hook is more than about ten inches from the distal portion of said jaws and less than about twelve inches from the distal portion of said jaws.

11. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said handle is a static handle mounted to said stalk and which further comprises a second, movable handle located proximate to said static handle, wherein said jaws articulate in response to movement of said second handle.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said jaws articulate between a first position and a second position, and which further comprises a spring for biasing said jaws to one of said first position or said second position.

13. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said hook includes a plurality of serrations.

14. The apparatus of claim 7 which further comprises a flexible bag, said bag having a pair of walls on opposing sides of an opening, each said wall defining a hole that is a predetermined distance from the bottom of said bag.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said bag is a T-shirt or punch handle bag.

16. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said hook is mounted to said stalk at a location such that the bottom of said bag extends below the distal portion of said jaws when a wall of said bag is attached at the hole to said hook.

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17. The apparatus of claim 7 which further comprises means for articulating said jaws located proximate to said handle.